

**JOINT DECLARATION ON A REGIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA**

Both the European Union and Georgia face challenges of uneven development of the regions, urban development and restructuring of rural or other areas.

Regional policy, supporting social and economic development, is a key asset in meeting these challenges.

The European Commission and the Government of Georgia hereby agree to establish a dialogue on Regional Policy.

The dialogue will take place in the context of the objectives set out in the Commission's Communication on the Eastern Partnership and the Prague declaration of the Eastern Partnership summit of 7 May 2009 in which participants made a joint commitment to deepen and intensify bilateral relations.

The dialogue will promote mutual understanding and enhance bilateral co-operation and the exchange of information on regional policy and establish communication channels so as to strengthen the exchange of information.

The dialogue will address issues of common interest for the European Union and Georgia.

This declaration does not entail any legally binding effects in respect of either party.

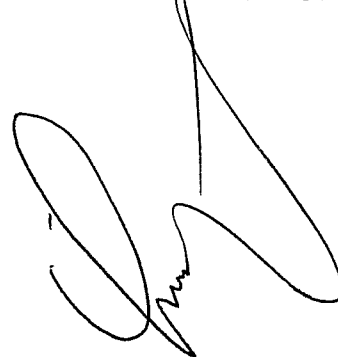
Brussels, 14 February 2011.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



Johannes Hahn
Commissioner for Regional Policy

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GEORGIA



Ramaz Nikolaishvili
Minister for Regional Development
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